

# IMP

The differences of *impossible* and not *impossible*, figurable and not figurable, are plebeian notions. *Bacon's Natural Hist.*  
**IMPRESSION.** *n. f.* [from *impress*.] The mark made by pressure; the dent; the impression.  
 Lean but upon a ruff,  
 The cicatrice and capable *impression*.  
 Thy palm some moments keeps. *Shakesp. As you like it.*  
**TO IMPRINT.** *v. a.* [*imprimer*, French.]  
 1. To mark upon any substance by pressure.  
 One and the same seal, *imprinted* upon pieces of wax of different colours. *Holder's Elements of Speech.*  
 Having surveyed the image of God in the soul of man, we are not to omit those characters of majesty that God *imprinted* upon the body. *South's Sermons.*  
 She amidst his spacious meadows flows;  
 Inclines her urn upon his fatten'd lands,  
 And sees his numerous herds *imprint* her fands. *Prior.*  
 2. To stamp words upon paper by the use of types.  
 3. To fix on the mind or memory.  
 There is a kind of conveying of effectual and *imprinting* passages, amongst compliments, which is of singular use. *Bac.*  
 When we set before our eyes a round globe, the idea *imprinted* in our mind is of a flat circle, variously shadowed. *Loc.*  
 We have all those ideas in our understandings which we can make the objects of our thoughts, without the help of those sensible qualities which first *imprinted* them. *Locke.*  
 Retention is the power to revive again in our minds those ideas, which, after *imprinting*, have disappeared. *Locke.*  
 By familiar acquaintance he has got the ideas of those two different things distinctly *imprinted* on his mind. *Locke.*  
**TO IMPRISON.** *v. a.* [*emprisonner*, Fr. *in* and *prison*.] To shut up; to confine; to keep from liberty.  
 He *imprison'd* was in chains remediless;  
 For that Hippolytus' rent corse he did redress. *Fa. Queen.*  
 Now we are in the street, he first of all,  
 Improvidently proud, creeps to the wall;  
 And so *imprison'd* and hemm'd in by me,  
 Sells for a little state his liberty. *Donne.*  
 Try to *imprison* the restless wind;  
 So swift is guilt, so hard to be confin'd. *Dryden.*  
 If a man *imprisons* himself in his closet, and employs reason to find out the nature of the corporeal world, without experiments, he will frame a scheme of chimeras. *Watts.*  
 It is not improbable, that all the virtual heat in the juices of vegetables, metals, and minerals may be owing to the action of the *imprisoned* rays. *Cheyne's Phil. Princ.*  
**IMPRISONMENT.** *n. f.* [*emprisonnement*, Fr. from *imprison*.] Confinement; claufure; state of being shut in prison. It may be written *emprisonment*.  
 His sinews waxen weak and raw,  
 Through long *imprisonment* and hard constraint. *F. Queen.*  
 Which shall I first bewail,  
 Thy bondage or lost fight,  
 Thou art become, O worst *imprisonment*!  
 The dungeon of thyself. *Milton's Agonistes.*  
 From retentive cage  
 When fullen Philomel escapes, her notes  
 She varies, and of past *imprisonment*  
 Sweetly complains. *Phillips.*  
 Count Serini, still close prisoner in this castle, lost his senses by his long *imprisonment* and afflictions. *Addison.*  
 It is well if they don't fix the brand of heresy on the man who is leading them out of their long *imprisonment*, and loosening the fetters of their souls. *Watts's Impr. of the Mind.*  
**IMPROBABILITY.** *n. f.* [from *improbable*.] Unlikelihood; difficulty to be believed.  
 The difficulty being so great, and the *improbability* of attempting this successfully, it was but reason that a solid foundation should be laid. *Hammond.*  
 As to the *improbabilities* of a spirit appearing, I boldly answer him, that a heroic poet is not tied to the bare representation of what is true, or exceeding probable. *Dryden.*  
**IMPROBABLE.** *adj.* [*improbable*, Fr. *improbabilis*, Lat. *in* and *probable*.] Unlikely; incredible.  
 This account of party-patches will appear *improbable* to those who live at a distance from the fashionable world. *Addison.*  
**IMPROBABLY.** *adv.* [from *improbable*.]  
 2. Without likelihood.  
 2. In a manner not to be approved. Obsolete.  
 Aristotle tells us, if a drop of wine be put into ten thousand measures of water, the wine being overpowered, will be turned into water: he speaks very *improbably*. *Boyle.*  
**TO IMPROBATE.** *v. a.* [*in* and *probo*, Latin.] Not to approve.  
**IMPROBATION.** *n. f.* [*improbatio*, Latin; *improbation*, French.] Act of disallowing.  
**IMPROBITY.** *n. f.* [*improbitas*, *improbis*, Latin.] Want of honesty; dishonesty; baseness.  
 He was perhaps excommunicable, yea, and cast out for notorious *improbitas*.  
 We balance the *improbability* of the one with the *improbability* of the other. *Hooker.*  
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**TO IMPROBIFY.** *v. a.* [*in* and *prolific*.] To impregnate; to fecundate. A word not used.  
 A difficulty in the doctrine of eggs is how the sperm of the cock *improbifies*, and makes the oval conception fruitful. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
**IMPROPER.** *adj.* [*impropre*, Fr. *improprius*, Latin.]  
 1. Not well adapted; unqualified.  
 As every science requires a peculiar genius, so likewise there is a genius peculiarly *improper* for every one. *Burnet.*  
 2. Unfit; not conducive to the right end.  
 The methods used in an original disease would be very *improper* in a gouty case. *Arbutnot on Diet.*  
 3. Not just; not accurate.  
 He disappear'd, was rarify'd;  
 For 'tis *improper* speech to lay he dy'd;  
 He was exhal'd. *Dryden.*  
**IMPROPERLY.** *adv.* [from *improper*.]  
 1. Not fitly; incongruously.  
 2. Not justly; not accurately.  
*Improperly* we measure life by breath;  
 Such do not truly live who merit death. *Dryd. Juvenal.*  
 They assure me of their assistance in correcting my faults where I spoke *improperly*, I was encouraged. *Dryden.*  
**TO IMPROPRIATE.** *v. a.* [*in* and *proprius*, Latin.]  
 1. To convert to private use; to seize to himself.  
 For the pardon of the rest, the king thought it not fit it should pass by parliament; the better, being matter of grace, to *impropriate* the thanks to himself. *Bacon's Henry VII.*  
 2. To put the possessions of the church into the hands of laicks.  
 Mrs. Gullion being possessed of the *impropriate* parsonage of Bardwell in Suffolk, did procure from the king leave to annex the same to the vicarage. *Speiman.*  
**IMPROPRIATION.** *n. f.* [from *impropriate*.]  
 An *impropriation* is properly so called when the church land is in the hands of a layman; and an appropriation is when it is in the hands of a bishop, college, or religious house, though sometimes these terms are confounded. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*  
 Having an *impropriation* in his estate, he took a course to dispose of it for the augmentation of the vicarage. *Speiman.*  
**IMPROPRIATOR.** *n. f.* [from *impropriate*.] A layman that has the possession of the lands of the church.  
 Where the vicar leases his glebe, the tenant must pay the great tithes to the rector or *impropriator*. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*  
**IMPROPRIETY.** *n. f.* [*improprietas*, Fr. from *improprius*, Latin.] Unfitness; unsuitableness; inaccuracy; want of justness.  
 These mighty ones, whose ambition could suffer them to be called gods, would never be flattered into immortality; but the proudest have been convinced of the *impropriety* of that appellation. *Brown's Vulg. Errors.*  
 Many gross *improprieties*, however authorized by practice, ought to be discarded. *Swift.*  
**IMPROSPEROUS.** *adj.* [*in* and *prosperous*.] Unhappy; unfortunate; not successful.  
 This method is in the design probable, how *improsperous* forever the wickedness of men hath rendered the success of it. *Hammond on Fundamentals.*  
 Our pride seduces us at once into the guilt of bold, and punishment of *improsperous* rebels. *Decay of Piety.*  
 Seven revolving years are wholly run,  
 Since the *improsperous* voyage we begun. *Dryden's Æn.*  
**IMPROSPEROUSLY.** *adv.* [from *improsperous*.] Unhappily; unsuccessfully; with ill fortune.  
 This experiment has been but very *improsperously* attempted. *Boyle.*  
**IMPROVABLE.** *adj.* [from *improve*.] Capable of being advanced from a good to a better state; capable of melioration.  
 Adventures in knowledge are laudable, and the essays of weaker heads afford *improvable* hints unto better. *Brown.*  
 We have stock enough, and that too of so *improvable* a nature, that is, capable of infinite advancement. *Decay of Piety.*  
 Man is accommodated with moral principles, *improvable* by the exercise of his faculties. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*  
 Animals are not *improvable* beyond their proper genius: a dog will never learn to mew, nor a cat to bark. *Grew's Cognat.*  
 I have a fine spread of *improvable* lands, and am already planting woods and draining marshes. *Addison's Spectator.*  
**IMPROVABLENESS.** *n. f.* [from *improvable*.] Capableness of being made better.  
**IMPROVABLY.** *adv.* [from *improvable*.] In a manner that admits of melioration.  
**TO IMPROVE.** *v. a.* [*in* and *probo*.] *Quasi probo facere.* *Skinner.*  
 1. To advance any thing nearer to perfection; to raise from good to better. *We amend a bad, but improve a good thing.*  
 I love not to improve the honour of the living by impairing that of the dead. *Denham.*  
 Heaven seems *improv'd* with a superior ray,  
 And the bright arch reflects a double day. *Pope.*  
 2. [*In* and *probo*; *improbo*, Fr. *improbo*, Lat.] To disprove.  
 Though the prophet Jeremy was unjustly accused, yet doth not that *improve* any thing that I have said. *Whitgift.*  
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**TO IMPROVE.** *v. n.* To advance in goodness.  
 We take care to *improve* in our frugality and diligence; virtues which become us, particularly in times of war. *Atterb.*  
**IMPROVEMENT.** *n. f.* [from *improve*.]  
 1. Melioration; advancement of any thing from good to better.  
 Some virtues tend to the preservation of health, and others to the *improvement* and security of estates. *Tillotson.*  
 2. Act of improving.  
 The parts of Sinon, Camilla, and some few others, are *improvements* on the Greek poet. *Addison's Spectator.*  
 3. Progress from good to better.  
 There is a design of publishing the history of architecture, with its several *improvements* and decays. *Addison.*  
 4. Instruction; edification.  
 I look upon your city as the best place of *improvement*: from the school we go to the university, but from the universities to London. *South.*  
 5. Effect of melioration.  
 Love is the greatest of human affections, and friendship the noblest and most refined *improvement* of love. *South.*  
**IMPROVER.** *n. f.* [from *improve*.]  
 1. One that makes himself or any thing else better.  
 They were the greatest *improvers* of those qualifications with which courts used to be adorned. *Clarendon.*  
 The first started ideas have been examined, and many effectually confuted by the late *improvers* of this way. *Locke.*  
 Homer is like a skilful *improver*, who places a beautiful statue so as to answer several vistas. *Pope.*  
 2. Any thing that meliorates.  
 Chalk is a very great *improver* of moist lands. *Mortimer.*  
**IMPROVIDED.** *adj.* [*improvisus*, Latin; *improvisus*, Fr.] Unforeseen; unexpected; unprovided against.  
 She suborned hath  
 This crafty messenger with letters vain,  
 To work new woe, and *improvided* death,  
 By breaking off the band betwixt us twain. *Fairy Queen.*  
**IMPROVIDENCE.** *n. f.* [from *improvident*.] Want of forethought; want of caution.  
 Men would escape floods by running up to mountains; and though some might perish through *improvidence*, or through the sudden inundation of a deluge, many would escape. *Hale.*  
 The *improvidence* of my neighbour must not make me inhuman. *L'Estrange.*  
**IMPROVIDENT.** *adj.* [*improvidens*, Latin.] Wanting forecast; wanting care to provide.  
*Improvident* soldiers, had your watch been good,  
 This sudden mischief never could have fall'n. *Shak. H. VI.*  
 When men well have fed, the blood being warm,  
 Then are they most *improvident* of harm. *Daniel's Ci. War.*  
 I shall conclude this digression, and return to the time when that brisk and *improvident* resolution was taken. *Clarendon.*  
 This were an *improvident* revenge in the young ones, whereby, in defect of provision, they must destroy themselves. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
**IMPROVIDENTLY.** *adv.* [from *improvident*.] Without forethought; without care.  
 Now we are in the street, he first of all,  
*Improv'd* proud, creeps to the wall;  
 And so *imprison'd*, and hemm'd in by me,  
 Sells for a little state his liberty. *Donne.*  
**IMPROVISION.** *n. f.* [*in* and *provisio*.] Want of forethought.  
 Her *improvision* would be justly accusable. *Brown.*  
**IMPRUDENCE.** *n. f.* [*imprudens*, Fr. *imprudens*, Lat.] Want of prudence; indiscretion; negligence; inattention to interest.  
**IMPRUDENT.** *adj.* [*imprudens*, Fr. *imprudens*, Lat.] Wanting prudence; injudicious; indiscreet; negligent.  
 There is no such *imprudent* person as he that neglects God and his soul. *Tillotson.*  
**IMPUDENT.** *n. f.* [*impudent*, Fr. *impudentia*, Lat.] Shamelessness; jefiness; immodesty.  
 I ne'er heard yet  
 That any of these bolder vices wanted  
 Less *impudence* to gain say what they did,  
 Than to perform it first. *Shakesp. Winter's Tale.*  
 Nor did Noah's open infirmity justify Cham's *impudence*, or exempt him from that curse of being servant of servants. *King Charles.*  
 Those clear truths, that either their own evidence forces us to admit, or common experience makes it *impudence* to deny. *Locke.*  
**IMPUDENTLY.** *adv.* [*impudent*, Fr. *impudens*, Latin.] Shamelessly; wanting modesty.  
 It is not a confident brow, nor the throng of words that come with such more than *impudent* lawfulness from you, can thrust me from a level consideration. *Shakesp. Henry IV.*  
 When we behold an angel, not to fear,  
 Is to be *impudent*. *Dryd. Spanish Fryar.*  
**IMPUDENTLY.** *adv.* [from *impudent*.] Shamelessly; without modesty.  
 At once assail  
 With open mouths, and *impudently* rail. *Sandys.*

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Why should soft Fabius *impudently* bear  
 Names gain'd by conquest in the Gallick war?  
 Why lays he claim to Hercules his strain,  
 Yet dares be base, effeminate, and vain? *Dryden.*  
**TO IMPUGN.** *v. a.* [*impugnare*, Fr. *impugno*, Lat.] To attack; to assault.  
 Of a strange nature is the fruit you follow;  
 Yet in such rule, that the Venetian law  
 Cannot *impugn* you. *Shakesp. Merch. of Venice.*  
 I cannot think myself engaged to discourse of lots, as to their nature, use, and allowableness; and that not only in matters of moment and business, but also of recreation, which is indeed *impugned* by some, though better defended by others. *South's Sermons.*  
 St. Hierom reporteth, that he saw one of these in his time; but the truth hereof I will not rashly *impugn*, or over-boldly affirm. *Peachment on Drawing.*  
**IMPUGNER.** *n. f.* [from *impugn*.] One that attacks or invades.  
**IMPUGNANCE.** *n. f.* [French.] Impotence; inability; weakness; feebleness.  
 As he would not trust Ferdinando and Maximilian for supports of war, so the *impugnance* of the one, and the double proceeding of the other, lay fair for him for occasions to accept of peace. *Bacon's Henry VII.*  
**IMPULSE.** *n. f.* [*impulsus*, Latin.]  
 1. Communicated force; the effect of one body acting upon another.  
 If these little *impulses* set the great wheels of devotion on work, the largeness and height of that shall not at all be prejudiced by the smallness of its occasion. *South's Sermons.*  
 Bodies produce ideas in us manifestly by *impulse*. *Locke.*  
 Bodies, from the *impulse* of a fluid, can only gravitate in proportion to their surfaces, and not according to their quantity of matter, which is contrary to experience. *Chyene.*  
 2. Influence acting upon the mind; motive; idea.  
 Mean time, by Jove's *impulse*, Mezentius arm'd,  
 Succeeded Turnus. *Dryden's Æn.*  
 These were my natural *impulses* for the undertaking; but there was an accidental motive, which was full as forcible. *Dry.*  
 Moses saw the bush burn without being consumed, and heard a voice out of it: this was something, besides finding an *impulse* upon his mind to go to Pharaoh, that he might bring his brethren out of Egypt. *Locke.*  
 3. Hostile impression.  
 Like two great rocks against the raging tide,  
 Unmov'd the two united chiefs abide,  
 Sustain th' *impulse*, and receive the war. *Prior.*  
**IMPULSION.** *n. f.* [*impulsion*, Fr. *impulsus*, Latin.]  
 1. The agency of body in motion upon body.  
 The motion in the minute parts of any solid body passeth without sound; for that sound that is heard sometimes is produced only by the breaking of the air, and not by the *impulsion* of the air. *Bacon's Natural History.*  
 To the *impulsion* there is requisite the force of the body that moveth, and the resistance of the body that is moved; and if the body be too great, it yieldeth too little; and if it be too small, it resisteth too little. *Bacon's Natural History.*  
 2. Influence operating upon the mind.  
 But thou didst plead  
 Divine *impulsion*, prompting how thou might'st  
 Find some occasion to infect our foci. *Milton's Agonistes.*  
**IMPULSIVE.** *adj.* [*impulsif*, Fr. from *impulsion*.] Having the power of impulse; moving; impellent.  
 Nature and duty bind him to obedience;  
 But those being placed in a lower sphere,  
 His fierce ambition, like the highest mover,  
 Has hurried with a strong *impulsive* motion  
 Against their proper course. *Denham's Sophy.*  
 What is the fountain or *impulsive* cause of this prevention of sin? It is perfectly free grace. *South's Sermons.*  
 Poor men! poor papers! we and they  
 Do some *impulsive* force obey,  
 And are but play'd with, do not play. *Prior.*  
**IMPUNITY.** *n. f.* [*impunité*, Fr. *impunitas*, Latin.] Freedom from punishment; exemption from punishment.  
 In the condition of subjects they will gladly continue, as long as they may be protected and justly governed, without oppression on the one side, or *impunity* on the other. *Davies.*  
 A general *impunity* would confirm them; for the vulgar will never be brought to believe, that there is a crime where they see no penalty. *Addison's Freeholder.*  
**IMPURE.** *adj.* [*impur*, Fr. *impurus*, Latin.]  
 1. Contrary to sanctity; unhallowed; unholy.  
 No more can *impure* man retain and move  
 In that pure region of a worthy love,  
 Than earthly substance can unforc'd aspire,  
 And leave his nature to converse with fire. *Donne.*  
 Hypocrites austere talk,  
 Condemning as *impure* what God has made  
 Pure, and commands to some, leaves free to all. *Milton.*  
 2. Unchaste.